



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

COOS BAY DISTRICT OFFICE

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January 30, 2004

5400/1792

EA No. OR128-04-07

SCOPING DOCUMENT

Dear Citizen:

This information and the enclosed maps describe BLM's intent to conduct vegetation management to restore historic community habitats in the Coos Bay BLM District.

The primary goals of the restoration are to re-gain historic vegetation communities within the Coos Bay District and to maintain them for the long-term. Historically, open forests, meadows, and Oregon white oak woodlands were rare on the Oregon Coast Range and Klamath Mountains ecological provinces. Human activities, such as fire suppression and some forms of land management have contributed to the decline of these communities throughout their range. These three community types are now being overtopped by conifers. Meadows are being encroached upon by conifer seedlings. Historic fire frequency has changed with current fire suppression activities since the mid-1900s.

This proposal includes seven sites. They were identified through analysis of aerial photographs from the mid- to-early 1900s. The treatment sites include Oregon white oak, open hardwood /conifer mixed forests, and open meadows. In order to restore the historical community conditions and to maintain them as open meadow/woodlands, low intensity and frequent fire needs to be reintroduced. Some of the sites have wood by-products which would be used to offset the cost of the initial phase of restoration.

BLM is considering treating approximately 115 acres of 20 to 80 year old Douglas-fir/mixed conifer. Burning all sites after removing larger fuel loads is recommended to restore the plant vigor and diversity of the dry meadows. Old legacy conifers and most hardwoods would be retained in this proposal.

Treatment sites are within matrix, connectivity, and late successional reserve land use allocations as defined in the Coos Bay District Final Resource Management Plan (1995) and the interagency FSEIS Record of Decision (1994). One site is within an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). Treatment at this site was identified in the ACEC management plan.

The proposal may include construction of one spur road estimated at 400 feet long. Most forest product removal would be done by helicopter, ground based extraction (on two sites), or burned on site. Several burning techniques are likely to be used to accomplish the stated goal. Other

restorative actions such as woodland thinning of stands to remove undesirable species or characteristics, seeding with native grass and forb species, and wildlife habitat structure creation (i.e., snags) may also be included.

The following areas are considered for treatment. Acreage estimates may vary because exact project site boundaries have not yet been determined by an interdisciplinary team:

Site Name	Legal Description	Watershed	Land Use Allocation	County	Size (acre)¹
Bear Creek	T 30 S, R 9 W, Sec 9 SW¼	Middle Fork Coquille	Connectivity	Coos	40
Cherry Creek	T 27 S, R 10 W, Sec 19 and T 27 S, R 11 W, Sec 25	East Fork Coquille	LSR & Matrix	Coos	10
Hurd Creek	T 22 S, R 8 W, Sec 33	Middle Umpqua Frontal	Matrix	Douglas	10
North Fork Hunter Creek ACEC	T 37 S, R 14 W, Secs 11, 12, 13 & 14	Hunter Creek	ACEC & LSR	Curry	20
Roman Nose	T 19 S, R 9 W, Sec 23	Lower Smith River	LSR	Douglas	10
Rowland Creek	T 31 S, R 12 W, Secs 6 & 7	South Fork Coquille	Connectivity & Matrix	Coos	15
Slide Creek	T 30 S, R 11 W, Sec 13	Middle Fork Coquille	Unmapped LSR (NSO)	Coos	10

¹Approximate acreage of existing meadow and Oregon white oak habitat area. Actual treatment areas may be larger due to inclusion of meadow perimeter.

(See enclosed maps.)

Your comments, questions, and concerns are requested by March 3, 2004. They will be used in the preparation of the Environmental Assessment.

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the above address during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of the EA document or other related documents. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

An interdisciplinary team will use your comments, along with resource specialist expertise, to develop a proposed action, alternative actions, and design features. The proposed action and alternatives will then be analyzed and the results documented in an EA as required by the National Environmental Policy Act. The EA is expected to be available for public comment in May 2004. A copy of the EA will be sent to those that request it or are on the District's mailing list to receive an EA. It will also be posted on the District's web site at:
<http://www.or.blm.gov/coosbay/>.

If you have any questions, need maps or other information, contact Steve Langenstein at (541)-756-0100, FAX: (541) 751-4303, e-mail address: coosbay@or.blm.gov or postal address: 1300 Airport Lane, North Bend, OR 97459.

Respectfully,

Richard Conrad

Richard Conrad
Myrtlewood Field Manager

M. Elaine Raper

M Elaine Raper
Umpqua Field Manager

Maps in PDF(click to open)

[Vicinity Map](#)

[Bear Creek](#)

[Cherry Creek](#)

[Hurd Creek](#)

[North Fork Hunter Creek ACEC](#)

[Roman Nose](#)

[Rowland Creek](#)

[Slide Creek](#)